

PRESUMPTIVE REASONS

Why the Governments of the Provinces of South and North Carolina, and the Bahama or Lucaios Islands being Proprietary Governments in America, should (more Especially) be Reassumed into the Hands of the Crown of Great Britain: Humbly offer'd to the Consideration of the Committee of the Honourable House of Commons; To whom a Bill, for the better Regulating of the Charter and Proprietary Governments in AMERICA, and of his Majesties Plantations, is Committed.

I. **A**LTHO' the Provinces of South and North Carolina, have been under the Government of Lords; Proprietors 53 Years, and the Bahama, or Lucaios Islands under the like Government 45 Years; yet the Proprietors of those Governments, have not only suffer'd the said Governments to lye open and Untenable against the Superior Power of France and Spain in time of War, and against Pirates in time of Peace; but have likewise suffer'd the Dignity of their Civil Government, and Consequently the Peace and Quiet of the Inhabitants, to be Invaded by Domestic Broils.

II. That the Inhabitants esteeming themselves Fellow Subjects with the said Lords, are or have been so far from Reconciling themselves to that Deference and Obedience required from them, by their said Lordships Letters-Patents: Notwithstanding the great Powers granted thereby: That the Consideration thereof, has often encouraged the said Inhabitants, to dispute the Commands of their Lordships Substitutes; and thereby many times put those Provinces and Islands into the utmost Confusion.

III. That the French and Spaniards, (near Neighbours to the said Governments) having always been sensible that the said Provinces and Islands, have no larger Protection than what proceeds from Persons who are only Subjects to the Crown of England: Have hitherto paid very little Regard to their Dominion; which they have Effectually Demonstrated by their Inhumanities more Especially Committed by the Spaniards, when with Fire and Sword they Invaded New Providence the Seat of Government for the Bahama Islands in the Year 1682, at which time 'tis said they Roasted the Governour Alive; And again, in the Year 1684, In which Invasions the Inhabitants of New Providence &c. were Damag'd by Computation to the Value of one Hundred Thousand Pounds, being in the times of a Solemn Peace. That the Spaniards, have likewise shew'd almost as little Respect to the Province of South Carolina, when they came from St. Augustine in time also of Peace, and Plundered, Burnt, and Destroy'd their Barrier Settlement at Port Royal. And since the War began in 1702, the French and Spaniards, have join'd together in Plundering, Burning and Destroying the said New Providence, and the Rest of the said Islands, continually Ravaging and Cruising with their Privateers among them, to the Great Destruction of our English Vessels, that During the WAR Traded from North America to Jamaica and others of our West-India Islands: So that for Ten Years last past, there has been no Regular form of Government left among the said Islands, which by these means since the Peace have been almost Reduc'd to a Nest of Pirates.

IV. That the LORDS Proprietors, have been not only Incapable or Unwilling to put their said Governments in a Posture of Defending themselves against the aforesaid Superior Powers of France and Spain; But have Neglected, the procuring Restitution and that Justice should be done to their Oppressed Tenants, the Inhabitants of South Carolina and of New Providence aforesaid, for the Insults and Depredations Committed by the Spaniards on the said Inhabitants in Time of Peace as before mentioned, altho' Earnest Applications have been made to them, for that Purpose.

V. That the said Proprietors, by Encouraging if not Affirming Acts of Assembly made in South Carolina, whereby Party Rage was let loose, Did Weaken the Bands of Unity and Concord among the Planters and Settlers there, to the Great Discouragement of Trade and Commerce, and the farther Improving the Settlement of the said Province.

VI. That Notwithstanding Several Mutinies have been Fomented within their Government in New Providence aforesaid, wherein some of their Substituted Governors have been Seiz'd and Imprison'd, one of whom they Secur'd on board of a Vessel in the Harbour thereof, and another they sent from their Government, in order to be convey'd to England: And altho' Application has been made, both by the said Governor and Inhabitants to the said Proprietors; Yet they have been Nevertheless without Redress, or any farther Notice taken thereof, To the great Discouragement of such Governors and Officers, who had Serv'd well, and likewise of those Inhabitants who were thereby Sufferers in their Effects and Trade.

VII. That for Want of Necessary Fortifications and Garrisons, Whereby the said Island of New Providence may be made Tenable against their Enemies in time of WAR, the Government there, have not been Capable of bringing Pirates, who had forc'd themselves among them to Justice, as was Demonstrated when Avery alias Bridgman and his Crew, who Robb'd the Great Moguls Ship, and then came to the said New Providence and Sunk their Ship, the Fancy, in the Harbour thereof: at which time, the said Proprietors Government there, unable to proceed against them according to the Rigour of the Law; took only the said Pirates Bonds for their Appearance in a Year and a Day, after which Bonds were so taken, wanting Power they could not hinder them from Flying to Places, where they thought themselves more secure.

VIII. That the said Bahama Islands, by the Rage of their Enemies, as is before mentioned having been wholly depriv'd of all manner of Forms of Government as aforesaid, Pirates are now Multiplying among them: By whom not only many of our English Vessels have been lately Robb'd and some taken; But the said Pirates, have likewise Robb'd our Allies the Spaniards, and thereby have Enrag'd them to threaten the Extirpation of all the English on those Islands: Which Threats, if they should put in Practice, our North American and West India Trade; will be fatally Discourag'd. Whereas in Case of a Rupture between the Crown of Great Britain, and those of France and Spain; The Bahama Islands and South Carolina, put into a proper posture of Defence under a Royal Protection, will be a greater Bridle upon the Spanish Trade; Than ever Dunkirk was upon the Channel, or Gibraltar and Port Mahon in the Mediterranean.

IX. That the aforesaid ill State of the said Bahama Islands, together with the late Robbery the Pirates there have Committed on the Spaniards, may probably have been some Foundation, or Encouragement which possibly the Spaniards have given their Neighbour Indians and others to make the present Barbarous Incursions upon Port Royal, and the Rest of the Settlements in South Carolina.

Lastly, That the LORDS Proprietors of Carolina, having been lately apply'd to, by the Inhabitants thereof, for their Lordships Assistance under their most dismal Circumstances, in order to Reduce the said Cruel and most Inhumane Indians. And the said Proprietors, having Declar'd themselves under no Obligation out of their Seperate Estates, to Relieve the said Inhabitants, or make the Bahama Islands Tenable: The Inhabitants of those Governments, must Unavoidably fall a Prey to their Enemies, Unless the said Provinces of Carolina and the Bahama Islands, are taken Immediately under the Government and Protection of the Crown of Great Britain, and such Supplies sent them, as are in this present Exigency absolutely Necessary, for their preservation and Defence.

REASONS

FOR

Regulating Charter and
Proprietary Govern-
ments in *America*.

More Especially *Carolina*,

AND THE

Bahama Islands.

AND PROPRIETARY GOVERNMENTS IN AMERICA
OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
BY THE REV. JAMES M. COOPER
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF GEORGIA AND THE

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